

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Final Official Action of March 21, 2007, relating to the above-identified application.

This response is presented as a replacement and substitute for the Amendment After Final filed May 16, 2007.

Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesy of granting a telephonic interview with counsel on June 6, 2007. During the interview, the proposed amendment to Claim 17 was discussed. It is believed that agreement was reached as to claim language to distinguish from the cited references. The Examiner's communication of May 29, 2007 correctly states the substance of the interview.

Claims 1-5 and 7-16 stand withdrawn from further consideration. Claim 1 has been amended by the foregoing amendment to conform to the text of Claim 17. Hence, it is believed that the non-elected claims are in condition for rejoinder.

It is noted that Claims 19-21, 26-32 and 35 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The rejection of Claims 17, 24, 25, 33 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Furuya, et al.*, JP 06-111838, newly cited, is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment.

The rejection of Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of *Furuya, et al.*, taken with *Koga, et al.*, JD 04-310229 is also traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment.

The Advisory Action of May 29, 2007 has been carefully studied, particularly the last paragraph thereof. After discussing the matter with Examiner Leung whose comments are greatly appreciated, applicants have further amended Claim 17 to more precisely define the geometrical configuration of the reactor apparatus and have adopted the language suggested by the Examiner.

Process Claim 1 has been amended to conform with the language in Claim 17 and, therefore, rejoinder is requested, if appropriate.

The arguments with respect to prior art presented in the Amendment of May 16, 2007 are incorporated herein to the extent necessary. It is believed that the prior art rejections have been overcome by the foregoing amendments.

Favorable action at the earliest convenience of Examiner Leung is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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